

# Detention Center Expands Community Service

The Community Service Program is a program designed by the State that allows inmates to go out into our community and provide various services to governmental entities, non-profit groups, and/or the jail itself. The inmates involved are classified by the State Department of Corrections before they are eligible to participate. All inmates must be lower level convicted felons, not present a danger to the community and their crimes must not involve violence or sex related offenses.

The Detention Center staff is always looking at ways to expand this program to provide additional dollar savings to taxpayers and to provide additional incentives for inmates.

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In December 2007 the Detention Center expanded the program to include female inmates into the Community Service Program, the first step of a larger plan for expansion of the female program. Currently we are using classified females in our facility to provide a long list of cleaning services. These are tasks that were previously done by male participants or paid staff. The women in our program are very excited to be able to participate and are doing well. Inmates that par-



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ticipate receive additional privileges, get time off of their sentences, and receive direction for their return to society.

The success of the program can be measured in dollars and cents returned to the community. Prior to construction of the Restricted Custody Center, the Campbell County Jail had approximately 20 participants in this program. A large part of the work performed by these inmates was either inside the Detention Center, work done outside for the Detention Center or trash pick-up along the highways. This resulted in savings of taxpayer dollars since

other people were not hired to do that work. Additionally, these inmates did some work for other entities which resulted in savings to taxpayers.

In 2005 we estimated a savings of \$77,306.25. With the opening and now a constant population in the RCC, the numbers of services performed and the savings to tax payers have really taken off. In the 2005-2006 Fiscal Year the estimated dollars of work performed was \$760,000 and in the 2006-2007 Fiscal Year the estimate was \$1,189,954.54. These are numbers that the Detention Staff and Campbell County Fiscal Court are very proud of.

In addition to these numbers, one only has to drive south on the AA Highway, U.S. 27 or Kentucky Highway 8 to see an additional benefit. Our Community Service Program is the largest provider of services and covers the largest number of highway miles of any of the participants in the Adopt-a-Highway program. During the 2006-2007 fiscal year our program covered over 600 miles of Campbell County highways, removed over 3,000 bags of garbage and devoted approximately 2,500 man hours to Adopt-a-Highway. Over the last few years, workers from our program have removed over 12,000 bags of garbage from our highways along with numerous appliances, tires and various other pieces of large trash. The success of this program is apparent simply by continuing south into other areas and seeing the litter strewn about on the same highways. Our program is responsible for the clean up of many county maintained roads, park areas and other areas through out our County as well. The County roads and areas are done pursuant to requests that our program receives from time to time.

The Community Service Program is a great success and we at the Detention Staff are very proud of the program. The benefits are depicted clearly in dollars and in the intangible benefit of a clean environment. If your city, governmental entity or non-profit agency would like to participate, we encourage you to contact our program supervisor and obtain details on how we, the Campbell County Detention Center, Community Service Program, can be of assistance to and help you to also SAVE OUR TAXPAYER DOLLARS.